

Jesus Lives!

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“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4).

In these few words is pointed out what Christ’s resurrection shall work in the life-walk of the Christian, the follower of Christ. There is strength to be had: and those who have been baptized into Christ, who have died with Him and have been buried with Him, shall also rise with Him. They who have been really joined in dying with Christ through sincere repentance and the giving up of their own often stubborn will, and who have believed in the power of Christ’s blood to cleanse them from their sins, and who have then also been buried with Christ in baptism, these shall also rise with Him to a newness of life. Christ gives them the strength to obey Him. In such is fulfilled what is written: “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13).

When we in whom God has begun His work and who bear the name of Christian see the standard which the Lord has set for men, and in particular for His people, and when we also view that standard not as an unapproachable ideal, but rather as God’s measuring line, we see that we must be humbled. For the standard is high; and even though the Lord has given us grace and has sustained us in it so that we no longer live in sin, yet too often we do not measure up as we should.

The message of Christ’s resurrection, however, brings with it the message that in Him there is power, and also that His followers shall have power. They shall have strength so that they do not need to yield to sin. They shall walk uprightly and in love. Those who do not and cannot do this can also have no right to call themselves Christians. The Word of God is clear on this point. Jesus has said: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.” (John 8:34). And the Apostle John wrote: “In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.” (I John 3:10).

The standard which the Lord has set is the one by which men’s works are to be measured (John 12:48-49). It is higher than men set for themselves — often much higher — and to a still greater degree it is higher than what men’s acts measure. One need only honestly try to live as God asks him to do and he will experience that he is not able to do it alone, and he will find that he needs a greater strength than his own.

Sometimes a person seeks in various ways or in various places for the ability to live right, but in vain: until he seeks at the one Source of power. For in Christ only — nowhere else — can a person find the strength he needs to overcome whatever temptations come his way. Only Christ was able to overcome the evil one, and the Savior shares His victory with those who live in union with Him.

Christ’s resurrection is an outstanding evidence of His power and of His victory. Another token, and a most convincing one, to anyone who sees it is the power of Christ shown in the lives of His followers. If we live consecrated lives, if we love our fellow men, if we live holy lives that are fruitful in good works, and if we humbly strive to obey God’s commands — if we do these

things, and only then, we are clear evidence of the living Lord to the world, and then we also have the assurance in our own heart that Jesus lives.

Jesus lives. May He live in us.

*Jesus lives! And with Him I!
Death no longer can appall me.
Lo, He lives and reigns on high,
And from death and grave will call me.
I shall then be glorified:
In this faith I here abide!*

*Jesus lives! His healing's mine;
My life give I to my Savior!
Ne'er oppose your Lord divine,
Then He will dwell in you ever;
Truly God doth aid dispense:
This shall be my confidence!*

*By the bond of hope and love
I am bound unto the Master.
Faith looks up to Him above,
Rests on Him through all disaster.
Even death now cannot keep
From my Shepherd me, His sheep.*

-Zion's Harp, Hymn 120

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